

Community/Federal Information Partnership

As the Nation's principal natural science agency, the USGS provides vital scientific information to America's growing communities. Through USGS partnership programs, scientists and community planners work together to decide what kind of information is needed to address the environmental, natural-hazard, and socioeconomic issues. This increase is part of the Administration's Lands Legacy initiative, State Planning Partnerships program. The additional funding will help states and communities preserve local lands and habitat. The proposed increase will help communities create and use much-needed geographic, geologic, and biological data and develop standards that help communities integrate data. The increase will improve the USGS's ability to provide spatially referenced earth and

biological science information through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII).

For FY 2001, the USGS requests \$30 million for the Community/Federal Information Partnership (C/FIP) for projects across the country aimed at developing local solutions to integrating base map data with geologic, biologic, hydrologic, soils, and land cover information. Of this amount, \$25 million will be allocated to competitively awarded matching grants and cooperative agreements to provide communities access to geospatial data and geographic information system technology.

More specifically, the work planned for

"The Committee endorses the idea of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and expects the Survey to expand partnerships and cooperation with State and local governments and the private sector to create an NSDI."

— House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, from House Report 105-609 accompanying the FY 1999 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill

FY 2001 includes the following:

- A national competition with focused activities in communities in such areas as the Lower Mississippi region, the Great Lakes, and the Southwest that will build on other USGS work in these areas.
- Increased collection and improved integration of ortho-image, elevation, geologic, biologic, and hydrographic data in cooperation with local communities to meet their needs and to expand applications by all potential users of USGS information.
- More precise delineation of streams and watersheds in order to greatly improve the application and exchange of natural resource data by Federal, State, local, and watershed-based organizations across the Nation.

	(Dollars in Thousands)
National Mapping Program	
Mapping Data Collection and Integration	+\$ 10,000
Earth Science Information Management and Delivery	+\$ 2,000
Geologic Hazards, Resources, and Processes	
Geologic Landscape and Coastal Assessments	
National Cooperative Geologic Mapping	+\$ 7,500
Geologic Resource Assessments	
Energy Resources	+\$ 500
Water Resources Investigations	
Water Data Collection and Management	
Water Information Delivery	+\$ 2,000
Biological Research	
Biological Information Management and Delivery	<u>+\$ 8,000</u>
TOTAL	+\$ 30,000

“We are making good progress in advancing our spatial data capabilities, but counties would like to be able to move at a faster rate. To do that we need to identify sources of support and create financial incentives to encourage all sectors to work in partnership.”

—Randy Johnson, President, National Association of Counties, February 1998.

- Improved ability of communities to find and use a variety of biological data for a selected species, topical area, or geographic location.
- Increased data holdings within the USGS's geospatial and geologic map databases, NSDI, and the NBII as the result of contributions of data from local partnering groups.

- Improved capability of watershed planners to search and retrieve data from 40 long-term databases by local watershed address.
- Simpler and quicker delivery of USGS data, analyses, and other vital resource information to local communities through the Internet.

Currently, the USGS exchanges geographic, geologic, biological, and water data with many organizations. State partners include geological surveys, fish and wildlife agencies, and water resource management agencies. Numerous Federal agencies, universities, regional planning agencies, and the private sector are also partners in sharing data. The increase extends benefits of these partnerships to help local communities make informed decisions that will enhance a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth.

As the nation's science agency for natural resources, hazards, and the environment, the USGS is committed to providing science that meets the needs of the changing world.